



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: \_\_\_\_\_ Complete: XXX Exploration: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection Date & Time: 10/10/2001 / 8:30AM-3:30 PM  
Date of Last Inspection: 07/09 & 13/2001

*SLC  
by  
JH*

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: C/007/038  
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Plateau Mining Corporation  
Business Address: 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526  
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface \_\_\_\_\_ Prep. Plant \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Official(s): Mr. Johnny Pappas, Senior Environmental Engineer  
State Official(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None  
Weather Conditions: Sunny/Clear/Cold; 30's to 40's Fahrenheit  
Existing Acreage: Permitted 14,670 Disturbed 161.55 Regraded \_\_\_\_\_ Seeded \_\_\_\_\_  
Status: Active XXX

### REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
  - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter- April, May, June)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 10/10/2001

( COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE )

Note: The Mine site and preparation plant facilities remain in temporary cessation status, (December 11, 2000). AMWEST Exploration, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, have completed an evaluation of the underground workings in order to evaluate the potential for starting the Mine back up. The dirt seals in portals #1 and #5 were removed and the fan was turned on to ventilate the Mine during the exploration process.

### 1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

The Division completed a review of AM01B (revised reclamation plan for the Willow Creek site) which was deficient and forwarded that information to the permittee, who has responded to the deficiencies. The review of those responses is pending.

SR01A, which is relative to the Crandall Canyon area and a possible change in the post-mining land use (retention of the access road in the Canyon is a primary issue), also continues within the review process.

### 4B. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The impoundment inspections for the third quarter of 2001 were conducted during August and September by V. S. Miller. There were no signs of instability or other safety hazards noted for any of the ponds by Ms. Miller. Pond 013A continues to be inspected on a monthly basis, as approved by MSHA. Pond 013A is dry; no problems were noted with it.

Today's field inspection of the site's impoundments only revealed one minor problem. The overflow culvert from the raw water process pond to the Price River (at the preparation plant) was partially blocked with debris (possibly beaver construction). This was allowing the water level in the pond to accumulate to a potentially dangerous level. Mr. Pappas attempted to remove the debris but had little success. The permittee had the inflow shut off at the Price River Water Improvement District treatment plant. This will allow the water level to resume a safe level and allow the permittee to remove the partial plug returning the overflow culvert to full capacity.

There were no other problems noted with any of the site's impoundments.

### 4D. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

Discharge monitoring reports for the months of May, June, July, and August were reviewed. None of the site's eight UPDES discharge points had outfalls during the four month period. All reports had been submitted in a timely fashion.

The second quarter 2001 water monitoring information was submitted to the UDNR/OGM on August 6.

The permittee has completed all of the site's third quarter water monitoring requirements. To date, that information remains to be added to the Division's electronic data base. The analytical sheets which were reviewed did not reveal any abnormalities; all cation/anion balances were within the acceptable error range.

The fourth quarter water monitoring data collection has not yet been initiated.

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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### 7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

The third quarter 2001 refuse pile inspection was performed and P.E. certified by Mr. John Borla, Utah registered professional engineer, on October 13. Mr. Borla did not note any signs of instability or other hazardous conditions.

Today's field inspection did not reveal any problems with the refuse pile. The permittee has contoured certain areas of the pile to provide more positive drainage. The diversions located on either side of the pile are capable of functioning as designed.

### 14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

A review of the permittee's annual subsidence survey was completed by this individual on September 5, 2001. The permittee submitted an annual report, which included this information on February 12, 2001. The submitted subsidence information includes monitoring data, a subsidence monitoring point location map, and an analysis, none of which are P.E. certified. According to the analysis, the maximum amount of deflection determined was -1.48 feet at monitoring point BC13, which overlies longwall panels D-1 and D-2. All mining ceased at the end of July, 2000, when a fire and a series of explosions occurred, causing the permittee to seal the operation.

Monitoring data for the three monitoring points installed in diversion CGD-5 for the first two quarters of 2000 is also included. A seismic event occurred on March 6, 2000 which blocked undisturbed diversion ditch CGD-5 with rock rubble from the overhead escarpment.

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Peter Hess #46

Date: October 15, 2001

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining.

cc: James Fulton, OSM  
Johnny Pappas, Plateau  
Price Field office

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